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The Sex Question.

(By F. Sutherland.)

Perhaps there is no question, not even that of religion, that is so carefully avoided, particularly at public meetings as that of the sexes. The question of sex implies not only the status of husband and wife, but the rearing of children and the population question.

Many Socialists approach the subject gingerly and always with fear of the frown of that formidable lady, Mrs. Grundy. When capitalist apologists says Socialism means the destruction of the home and family life, they hasten to assure these allegedly virtuous men and women, who calmly acquiesce in the destruction of the workman's home such as it is, and the scattering of his family, that Socialism really means no change in present family relations.

In the same way as they assure the religionists, Socialism will not harm religion.

Yet at the same time they repeat albeit without the least idea of its real meaning, that a change in the mode of production implies a change in the customs and institutions of society.

The fact is, that instead of squarely facing those questions arising from revolution in the mode of production, they are really trying to soothe the superstitions of their time.

As if religion had not changed often during the ages, and the relations of the sexes undergone five or six different changes during the period of history. The fact is the lesson of Evolution has not yet been appreciated, even where it is theoretically clearly defined. A survey of the existing state of affairs will show the manifest defects of the present system, and the need for better and improved conditions. To begin with, over the greater part of humanity in the province of Labor, the home is altogether too limited for comfort.

Parents and family are cramped up in a few rooms, admitting but little comfort and privacy and none of the refinements of life.

Once married, man and wife remain, owing to economic pressure, rooted to the soil like the serfs in the dark ages, glad indeed if they can earn a living.

No variation in their lives, no sea trips, no visiting of beautiful scenery unless such happens to be close at hand and they can secure cheap excursion rates, where they are crowded into trains like sardines in a tin.

As soon as their children comes to the age when they really begin to learn something, they are withdrawn from school and sent to work, apparently to repeat the monotonous and intellect-destroying life of their parents. The boys have indeed a little more scope, as they can travel alone and unaided in their own native land and other lands, but the girls find difficulty, owing to convention, in travelling alone, and consequently their mental vision is restricted and their ideas become commonplace. Their ideal is simply to exchange the restrictions and narrow conventionalities of home life to the equally and sometimes more restricted and less free married life.

Cribbed, cabined and confined by circumstances over which individually they have no control, is it any wonder the average working woman and girl have no ideas beyond the commonplace, and no literature higher than trashy novels? It is, however, the desire for a wider and more varied life that creates in them a desire to read the escapades and adventures of the Duke of Plenty and his love for the beautiful Lady Livefast, and they are anxious to know how the story ends, and if those two interesting persons really got married after all and lived happy ever after.

Their lives are impoverished by monotonous toil and anxiety, and they, as a rule, have little inclination for serious study of questions which vitally affect them. More so than their husbands and brothers are the wives and daughters of the working-class discriminated against in the matter of travel.

Women experience the greatest difficulty in getting accommodation at hotels. If they would spend money on whisky and beer the publican would soon find accommodation, but he wants neither men nor women who are total abstainers. These patriots have a rooted

objection to children.

Probably they believe God sends children—the legend taught the young—because it is evident their pocket patriotism penalises the woman having "encumbrances" along with her.

It reminds one of the poor woman who searched early and late to find a home for herself and eleven children—truly a happy sight to the windy Roosevelts mouthing empty phrases about race suicide.

Of course there was no accommodation, so she left ten of the children in a nearby cemetery and, taking the youngest with her, made another attempt. The ruse succeeded. Asked if she had a big family, she replied, "Yes, but ten of them are in the cemetery." Of course many were the sympathetic remarks on the assumption that those in the cemetery were there to stay.

Having secured a house she brought the family from the abode of the dead to the infinite surprise and disgust, not to say anger of the pious and patriotic landlord.

Yet there are Socialists who say we must not disturb such ideal homes.

But apart from that what are the conditions even in the normal settled state? The struggle for life adversely affects both husband and wife, but of the two the woman is in worse plight. Depending on her husband for a living, she defers to him in most matters. What is the value of the vote to her when she is subservient to another, having no real freedom in many cases without creating domestic discomfort, which she avoids often more for her children's sake than her own comfort?

The fact of her dependence often makes the husband arrogant and domineering, and in most cases he expects his wife to acquiesce with his opinions. Woman has in fact little or no real freedom; hence, the woman of ideas finds herself in constant difficulties at home and abroad.

Even in the ranks of the parasites, women find it pays to avoid intellectual pursuits, and so degenerate into mere dress exhibits and their brain atrophies with disuse. The present relations of the sexes, of the home, and of the family needs altering if the race is to progress.

What then will be the probable results of Socialism? In the first place, it means the emancipation of woman, which must result from the emancipation of the working-class. It means that constructing of more comfortable homes where both man and wife can have apartments of their own and also apartments for children.

The too frequent association of any two persons no matter how much they like each other's company, tends to become tedious.

Amongst the wealthy in our age, as even in the middle ages, women have their own apartments which is as it should be.

When woman becomes independent of man, when she earns her own living, then, and not till then, will she be appreciated. Now she is flattered and pampered often in a quite exaggerated manner before marriage, and neglected after marriage.

It was this noticeable difference that prompted a married woman to remark to her husband—"You don't court me now as you did before we married," and he replied, "You never saw a man running after a tram-car when he had caught up with it."

But when woman becomes independent of man for her living, it will be to the interest of both to please each other. The courtship will last a lifetime, as it should do. The present system is master and servant giving rise to arrogance on the part of the husband and submission on the part of the wife; the future marriage will be an alliance between equals engendering respect on both sides—husband and wife will be partners.

Of course, we are compelled to guess a lot regarding probable conditions under Socialism, and I will merely say I surmise the conditions will be something like the following. Boys and girls will receive the best possible education. Not only education, but the health of the child-

The Industrial History of Broken Hill.

To read Dale's book is to be again impressed with the sameness of working class history in whatever country it may have been enacted. If it did nothing else it would at least give proof to the contention of the Socialists that no matter what part of the earth is dominated by capitalism, there with all its tragic phases is played out the drama of the class struggle.

Like causes breed like results, and just as the path of capitalism is marked by fraud, deceit and the bloody hand of "law and order" in Europe, Africa and America, so here in "glorious, democratic Australia."

Out of the thirty years of history that Dale deals with, from 1888 to the present time, nothing stands out so plainly as the fact that Parliament is but the executive committee of the master class, prepared at all times to utilise the armed force of the State whenever the interests of the industrial lords are threatened.

And yet it is this obvious fact that the majority of Broken Hill workers seem to have overlooked, for right up to date they have returned men to Parliament who claim that they can legislate in the interests of the workers.

We would certainly recommend the rank and file of the Labor Party to read the chapters that deal with the relations of the Broken Hill Proprietary and the Government, both Liberal and Labor in their turn, during the periods when the Barrier slaves dared strike for improved conditions.

They will then realise that the Howells of the past and the Delprats of the present, are the real rulers of Australia. Time and time again during strikes have these drones given the Government the "office," and in reply, train loads of scabs and police have been hurried to the Hill, and not these alone, but with them have gone special magistrates with special instructions on the subject of savage sentences for unruly wage plugs.

You doubt this perhaps? Well get

Dale's book, read the data he supplies, and be convinced.

There can be no doubt that Dale has rendered the movement a service in placing the industrial happenings of the Barrier in ordered sequence and clear perspective as he has done.

Seldom does he stray from the direct narrative, although when he does it is usually worth while. As, for instance, writing of the close of the strike in '92, he "deals out the goods" thus: "Oh, the privations and sufferings of the latter portion of that struggle! What agonies were experienced; what degrading, humiliating, damnable strains were these downtrodden men and women of the Barrier driven to."

And all for WHAT? To appease the depraved minds and to fill the huge pockets and guts of a few bigoted, soulless, grasping capitalists, who never have, and probably never will, do one single act likely to be of benefit to humanity, country or God. These are the consciousnessless crows who preach of the identity of interests as between capital and labor and who bemoan working class bitterness. Working class bitterness! Good Christ! Do THEY expect sweetness from men who have suffered a lifetime of hellish agonies, brought about by the exploiters' inhumanity to man.

Much is written herein of the plentiful crop of political wasters that the Barrier has produced, and also of the local master class journalists and their abominable attacks and misrepresentation of the workers' side of the case at all times.

When the brothels of hell are cleaned out, we expect to find these mental prostitutes, both political and journalistic, occupying the high places.

If you are a student of working class history, Dale's book will be exceedingly useful to you, whilst if you are from the "Hill" you will find therein records of "Cabins long gone; old well sides, old dear faces; and men who loved the cause that never dies."

A.S.R.

ren will receive attention.

Children may be fed as well as educated by the community; in fact parents and children may find it better to dine in communal cafes instead of the wasteful method of each cooking his or her own meal. When cooking is done by professional cooks as it is done in many hotels, it may be found more convenient to specialise in the matter of cooking as is done in the work of housebuilding or the manufacture of clothing and boots. Many wealthy families in America live in hotels and dine at the common table.

Of course, nothing should prevent married people doing the arduous work of housekeeping if they so desire. It is probable mothers will naturally prefer to care for their infant children until such times as they enter kindergarten which in some countries is about 4 years of age.

But wealthy mothers often consign their children to nurses in infancy, and in France working women used to leave their babies at nurseries in the morning calling for them in the evening. But the latter proceeding may be necessity, not choice, and, therefore, no pattern to go by.

At any rate it will be found far more healthy and desirable, and to the interest of women if they can get rid of the drudgery and worry of housekeeping and by working three hours or so per day at some communal occupation than working ten or more hours at home.

Already wealthy women live in hotels, consign their infants to the care of nurses, and send their children when grown to private schools where they are fed and attended to, as well as educated. If they can do these things and find it best to do so, why not develop the method generally? If there were objections to dining in communal cafes and found too laborious and wasteful to do one's own cooking, it should be possible to purchase and have cooked meals delivered at the home,

Enough has been said to show in a general way the vast improvement that would result from the emancipation of the working-class, and the equality of the sexes, but after all we can only form a faint idea of the magnitude of the changes.

Try to imagine what it would mean if every boy and girl got a college education, and even better than that, for much of the college curriculum is valueless. Their health attended to by experts, and in a word their physical and mental powers fully developed.

Their homes roomy and sanitary, ensuring privacy and health; their work rendered easy by labor-saving machinery and methods.

Woman no longer a hermit in a little house, kept apart from the social life which enlightens the mind and enlarges the ideas, but taking her part in the work of production and in the counsels and councils of the commune.

We can only faintly realise what it means when we listen to the insipid talk of grown-up men and women of all classes of society, at the hoodlum tactics of youth, which takes the place of gymnasiums, where the surplus energy of youth might be rationally expended; at the theatres and picture plays, where lust parades in sorry masquerade as love; at the poorly disguised erotic literature appealing only to base natures, but corrupting the innocent; at the utter false philosophy of life and society, which in the interests of the ruling class distorts and perverts the truth as it is in Nature, and the sad acquiescence of men and women who know better, but fear to voice their true opinions. But it is well to speculate on the probable outcome of Socialism, for it has the double advantage of refuting the false prognostications of exploiters who fatten on the misery of mankind, and predict disaster, and because it gives us courage to advocate the greatest and most far-reaching and most beneficial revolution the world has ever seen, Socialism has immense possibilities.

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Free Speech.

By MARCIA.

Some years ago in Germany the master class realised that the Socialist philosophy was slowly but surely permeating through the ranks of their slaves, and hitting straight at the root of the danger. Bismarck instituted his iron law, forbidding the holding of meetings and stamping all Socialist propaganda, but that was in downtrodden, oppressed, militaristic Germany.

Now in Australia, we have a spectacle of exactly the same happening, but in a somewhat different manner. For weeks past that great ally of capitalism, i.e., the press, has been doing its insidious work, calling attention to the fact of meetings being held in the Domain, and branding them as seditious and disloyal, culminating its action by a paragraph in the "Sun," published on Sunday morning, in which it stated that certain returned soldiers intended to break up meetings and interfere with free speech.

It was written in such a way as to inflame the minds of the latter, and to goad them into making such an attack.

Consequently on Sunday afternoon we have the sorry sight of the propaganda meetings broken up; brutal treatment to some of those who attempted to defend their platforms and speakers, literature and papers torn and confiscated, and all by a few young recruits, and some returned soldiers.

This in free Democratic (?) Australia, and of course iron laws do not prevail here; but all the same, when we review a few facts in connection with the happenings, there are some points which are puzzling.

A large number of police were in the Domain on Sunday afternoon, considerably more than usual; the attacking party consisted of about 50, all of them practically boys. Are we to suppose, then, that 150 police are not sufficient or strong enough to keep such a small force in order?

Apparently so, and yet it was noticeable that one meeting was kept going for a considerable time, in fact until a certain speaker mounted the platform, and then the police were suddenly overpowered and the speaker knocked off it.

Really, our police force needs revision.

Then again, it was surely rather a foolish move of the authorities to dismiss so many returned soldiers at the Domain gates; they are so anxious for law and order, but possibly they had overlooked the notices and articles in the press, and imagined that the returned men would be glad and interested to take part in the meetings held in the Domain. No doubt this was the case, and they will know better next time.

On Sunday night at the Trades Hall the police definitely stated that they would not be responsible for any action

Slams and Jabs.

By JAYBES.

The press of plutocracy has no redeeming features from a working class point of view. It truly fulfils its function, its avocation being the consciousness distortion of facts, the vindictive slandering of the tellers of fact and a consistent and brazen misrepresentation of the working class in their struggle upward and onward toward emancipation. The treatment received from this press of the march of the Bolsheviks is one of the most glaring evidences of its perverse crookedness. The material that has been issued in the yellow journals since the outbreak of the proletarian revolution is an insult to the intelligence of a Barbary ape. Workers who have never gotten into the habit of thinking for themselves accept literally what appears in the morning and evening news (?) papers. First we are told that the Bolsheviks are in receipt of German gold. Now we are told that the only anti-German force in Russia is the Bolsheviks. Two armoured cars filled with Germans took Petrograd, put Kerensky out and Lenin and Trotsky in. 100,000 Red Guards were put to death in Finland; now we find that 70,000 Red Guards have been sent from Finland to Germany to work in war industries. The only thing consistent about the press is its consistent inconsistency.

The success of the Russian working class movement will hasten the day when you, too, will enjoy the full fruits of your labor, instead of you siding with the oppressors of the working class in Australia in their attempt to discredit Russian proletariat you should be demanding the official recognition of the Bolsheviks Consul, and at the same time organising on similar lines for the overthrow of the parasites in industry who sap your vitality and befuddle your brain. Lincoln once said: "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but not all the people all the time."

Arouse from your slumber ye disinherited slave to the machine; organise in industry and own the machine which now enslaves you.

Mr. Robert Lansing, U.S. Secretary of State in a recent speech, said: "This republic will never compromise with the butchers of nations and individuals."

Robert has suddenly become very righteous in his old age. "Butchers of nations and individuals" recalls to our mind the brutal assassination of working class men, women and children by hired thugs of the Pinkerton detective agency in the pay of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. Lansing's voice was dumb, and this latest champion of Democracy

taken by the soldiers. Why was this? They must have been outnumbered, and yet the mounted troopers were there, and only a rabble threatened. Truly such problems are beyond our comprehension.

But one fact is certain beyond all doubt that free speech is threatened; the working class are beginning to realise their position in society, and the master class will show its iron hand in an endeavour to prevent them from coming to a full realisation. Capitalism is the same all the world over, and though its methods may differ, its action will be the same.

Another certainty is this. If we mean to preserve our right of free speech, only one way is open to us. We can expect no help from the authorities; we must help ourselves. Organisation on the part of the workers is a vital necessity in this case, and must take place ere we can hope to conquer.

Remember what Russia has accomplished by organisation, the militants were refused freedom of speech; they were denied all privileges, they were opposed and crushed; but the organisation still went on, slowly but surely, and to-day they stand out as FREE in the fullest and best sense of the word.

Let us organise likewise, and we also will be able to beat back oppression and tyranny.

It behoves every rebel and lover of freedom to roll up to the Domain in future and see that hoodliganism does not reign supreme.

spoke not at all when the State Militia (the degenerate thugs of capitalism) murdered the women and children of Ludlow, Colorado.

Away with your hypocritical cant, Robert Lansing! And away with the horde of blood-seeking buccaneers you represent. Your brand of democracy spells death and destruction to the toiling masses. WE OF THE WORKING CLASS WILL FORM OUR OWN DEMOCRACY (the only one worth dying for) THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY.

A Siamese Prince by the name of Triados Prahndh (pronounce it and it's yours) visited San Francisco last Thursday, and while chattering his mush announced that "The German people believe whatever the German officials tell them." Thing-ma-bob may think so, but if it is any news to Triados we may here announce that there is a section of the working class the world over who never did and never would believe what the officials of any capitalist Government tell the people, be they Siamese princes or Australian politicians: they are the Revolutionary Socialists and the officials of all countries know that this is the only force they have to contend with in the coming struggle that can't be fooled.

"Russia must be saved." So says the London "Times," that watchdog of capitalism. Saved for whom may we ask.

Russia is going to be saved for the workers who have made Russia, but the "Times" and robber class the "Times" represents wants to see Russia saved for the shirkers to further exploit the Russian working class.

We predict grave disappointment for the "Times," and that band of financial buzzards who are looking for new markets and fields of exploitation.

Prof. Meredith Atkinson, the official chloroformer from England, addressed a well attended meeting at the Melbourne A.S.P. Hall the other Sunday evening. He is as plausible as a second-hand dealer, and wriggles with abstracts like a conjurer juggling with parasols. He reminds one of a sailing ship. He can trim his sails to suit any breeze. Addressing a meeting at the Chapter House he was a rabid Imperialist, at the A.S.P. Hall he believed in an International Parliament, abolition of secret diplomacy, etc., etc. When capitalism cannot succeed in fooling the workers they are not slow to use every and all means whereby the working class march to progress can be arrested and turned down a blind alley towards this end the Professor is making a great endeavour. He said he was opposed to war, and suggested about twenty methods whereby wars in the future could be averted. He was asked the question: "Since you are opposed to war are you in favour of a scientific and thorough organisation and education of the working class that has for its aim the overthrow of the system that causes war, and proving to the workers of the world that they have no country to fight for." He, cell-like, wriggled out without a blemish on his Imperialistic frame, by saying that some law or other prevented him from joining any organisation of that description as a Professor. A woman in the audience caused a flutter on his face when she asked him the rather pointed question, "Would you sacrifice your principle for your job," another cell movement that showed that the lance had pierced his professional hide and unmasked his hypocrisy. His aim is to gull the workers into making an attack on affects of an insane system, and leave the same system to produce more insane effects. These capitalist apologists are barren, as barren as capitalism itself. They have nothing to present of a constructive character, they are all quibbles, and present a sorry spectacle in their attempt to bolster up a rotten mode of production that is not only responsible for wars, but for all the ills that prey upon the working class.

Fellow worker, wherever you be and whoever you be, let the words of Marx sink deep into your tired brain, let them burn deep until your whole system becomes permeated with the thought: "THE EMANCIPATION OF THE WORKING CLASS MUST COME THROUGH THE CLASS CONSCIOUS WORK OF THE WORKING CLASS."

What we admire we praise; and, when we praise, Advance it into notice, that its worth acknowledged, Others may admire it, too. —Cowper.

The wage-earners of South Africa seem to have the bosses on the run. The S.A. Mineworkers' Union has demanded a 25

per cent. increase. The Federation of Trades wanted the miners to wait, but apparently the miners thought that "procrastination is the thief of time" and want it "immediately." We only hope they are well enough organised to keep on demanding more and more until they finally get the lot. That's what we are out for "THE LOT," and we'll compromise for nothing short of it.

A Reuter cable tells us that in Moscow only Bolshevik papers are allowed to be published. Capitalism cannot complain about this, it's one of their own tactics turned on themselves. The Bolsheviks have good reason to suppress journals that are in the pay of Allied capitalists.

We have the translation of an article from a Russian paper printed in Moscow proving that the papers issued by the so-called "Social Revolutionaries" were printed from a sum of money granted by American capitalists for the purpose of discrediting the proletarian revolution.

There is too much to lose for the workers in Russia to allow silly sentiment to stand in the way. Capitalism of to-day never allows itself to be attacked if it has the power to prevent it, and the stake in Russia is LIBERTY against a new form of despotism.

The religionist who ethically applied his philosophy to daily life is sincere in his belief, but on the other hand, the man who prostitutes religion and uses it as a mask to cover his duplicity and scoundrelism is as low in the social scale as the confidence man. The Man of Nazareth was a Man of Peace. "Blessed are the peacemakers," "Put up the sword," etc., were quite in order in the church before Mars took the floor. Now that the God of war and the God of Gold have linked up and become united the pulpites have forsaken the Prince of Peace in their haste to serve both Mars and Mammon. In Orange, N.S.W., there dwells a man who is true to principle, and is unafraid. This man, the Rev. T. B. Roseby, while preaching Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward all men, was mobbed and dragged from his pulpit by a band of uniformed hoodlums (supposedly defenders of the empire and little children).

Since the brutal attack on this fearless man we see the clergy of the Congregational Church in wild uproar. The "very best people" and the "most respectable" are leaving the church. They would have closed the door of the church if they had had the power. We admire the man Roseby, and are sorry that the Rosebys are, alas, too few.

Here we find miserable nationalism, brazen hypocrisy, despicable cowardice, remorseless barbarians and scoundrels of plutocracy hiding, grinning, leering, confusing and betraying under the cloak of religion. DO YE FIGHT THIS? YES! A thousand times YES. We fight the betrayers of mankind wherever and whenever we find them, be they in the church or the Labor movement. Socialism is to the Socialist the religion of humanity, and when this dragon of deceit and monster of betrayal shows its head we are ready to pounce upon it and exhibit it to mankind for what it is—shorn of its cloak—a barnacle on the ship of progress and a cog in the wheel of Labor's emancipation. "Fortitude is victory."

"A great mind is ready to believe, for he hungereth to feed on facts," says M. Tupper. And De Leon then enters and finishes the sentence: "The truth is that which fits all the facts in the case."

We of the revolutionary Socialist movement do not ask you to believe; we ask you to think and reason for yourself. We ask you to hunt for facts and when you have found them we ask you to link one fact to the other there making a chain of truth that will eventually break your bondage and set you free.

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The Russian Revolution.

A Review and a Retrospect.

Compiled by J. A. D., W. H., J. B. S.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE.)

On January 27 sitting of the Soviet Delegates' Congress a debate ensued on the Peace question in connection with the German terms.

Trotsky declared that no hope could possibly be entertained now that they could reach a non-annexationist peace. Only a compromising peace could be reached. "The bourgeois Governments can sign any kind of peace. The Government of the Soviets cannot," said Trotsky, and in the whole vast assembly there was but a handful of men who disagreed. Yet, he continued, they would not and could not give an undertaking not to conclude a separate peace. They were going to Brest with the same object as before, to insist on the Russian Revolution. They would declare at Brest-Litovsk that the whole world considers the German terms murderous, and they hoped that Western Europe would not blame Russia if, after all, she should be forced to conclude a separate peace.

"We have plenty of enemies," Trotsky said, but, either we shall be destroyed or the power of the bourgeoisie throughout Europe will be destroyed. Industrial Democracy and Capitalist Oligarchy cannot exist side by side in Europe any, not for long in this world. We have left the Imperialistic war and shall never return to it."

The Congress adopted a resolution, proposed by the Bolsheviks, approving of the policy of the Brest delegation of Peace Commissioners, declaring against the German terms, but giving the delegation a free hand.

On January 30 at Brest-Litovsk, Trotsky, giving what he termed an accurate account of the situation in Ukraine, said the Ukraine Council of Soldiers, Peasants and Workmen's Delegates had been victorious at many points against the Kieff Rada, and the whole Donetz coalfield, the entire mining region of Ekaterinoslav, and the Governments of Kharkoff and Poltava were in their hands. In other parts of Ukraine the power of the Soviets was increasing. Now, when the Ukrainian Soviets were represented at the All-Russian Congress in Petrograd, which had created a federal basis for the Russian Republic, only an agreement made with the Ukraine could be recognised, that secured formal endorsement by the Government of the Federal Republic of Russia.

That the Bolshevik delegation at all times insisted upon the working class position is seen by a statement of Dr. von Kuhlmann, German Foreign Minister; before the Reichstag on January 26 he said: "Herr Trotsky twice declared in open discussion that the German Government has no other basis than force. . . . The statements of the Bolsheviks show that these gentlemen are indulging in another policy than that of concluding an open and honorable peace with the Bourgeois Governments of Germany and Austria, which are hated like poison."

The Council of People's Commissioners decided on the creation of the War Commissioners' Department of a special council composed of delegates from the whole of Russia for directing the work of organising and forming a Red army of peasants and workmen of the Russian Republic. A preliminary grant of twenty million roubles was assigned for the organisation and equipment of soldiers and the feeding of their families.

An interesting letter from M. Phillips Price, "Manchester Guardian," correspondent at Petrograd, on Russia's democratic system appears below. It is well to bear in mind that the Russian Soviet is the nearest equivalent possible in Russia to-day of the Industrial Councils, planned and advocated by the Workers' International Industrial Union. Thus the Soviet Republic is the Industrial Republic of Labor in the making. Mr. Price writes:

"The Convention of Workers' Soldiers' and Peasants' Delegates, to which is joined the left wing of the Constituent As-

sembly is approaching the end of its work. The last three days were devoted to problems of internal reconstruction. Russia has declared a Federal Republic of the Soviets. All authority in the provinces passes into the hands of councils elected by the workers, soldiers and peasants. Thus no person not engaged in active labor and not organized in the Soviets can take part in political life. The local National Soviets of Ukraine, Cosacks, Lettland, and the Tartar provinces of Siberia are to have wide autonomy. Every three months the provincial Soviets are to send delegates to the All-Russian Congress of Workers, Soldiers and Peasants, which will sit not less than one week in Petrograd to co-ordinate the work of the local Soviets.

"The All-Russian Congress will appoint an executive committee to sit during three months between the Congresses to carry out the resolutions of the latter. The executive is to be divided up into a number of commissions dealing with peasant affairs, urban, labor, railways, produce, and revolutionary defence, over which presides one Popular Commissioner. Thus is being formed a new Government of the working class aiming to reorganise society on a Socialist basis—social ownership of the means of production and distribution, the concentration of all power in the hands of the workers, and the elimination of the capitalist system of exploitation.

"Meanwhile, the Russian peace delegation left for Brest-Litovsk to continue the peace negotiations. I find, after a conversation with party leaders in the lobbies, that some are against a separate peace with the Central Empires under any conditions, and ready to defy the German-Austrian Governments to move their soldiers against Revolutionary Russia. Others are not prepared to run the risk of the possibility that German soldiers might still be ready to obey their officers, and would therefore sign a separate peace, or, as Trotsky put it, an unfortunate peace, as a last resort, even if it contained hidden annexations and indemnities. They would only do this if absolutely clear that the proletariat of the Central Empires were unable or unwilling to force their Governments to make peace on the basis of the Russian peace platform. They reason that it is better for the Russian Revolution to concentrate on reconstruction, land, industrial, and food problems, and that if Russia succeeds in the coming year in overcoming economic difficulties and in securing large food supplies she will be in a position to dictate terms to starving Western Central Europe, sell corn and meat advantageously from an economic and political point of view, and thus neutralise any temporary gains which the European oligarchies may get by a peace at the territorial expense of Russia. Thus, whether a separate peace be signed or not will depend on the development of events in Western Central Europe. If the moderate Austrian Socialist leaders (i.e. Political or Menshevik Socialist) succeed in persuading the Austrian proletariat to agree to compromise with their Government, then the latter, with the German Government may succeed in forcing its veiled annexations on the Russian Revolution."

On January 31st the Third General Congress of Workers' Soldiers and Peasants' Soviets came to an end. It was decided that all laws the validity of which was to be modified and approved by the Constituent Assembly should be annulled. A decree was passed declaring the permanent nature of the Government. Land laws which abolish the right of individual ownership of land, reserving this right for everyone wishing to cultivate land with his own hands, have been ratified; this limitation, however, does not concern industrial organisations, thus allowing for the efficient organisation of agriculture on a modern scientific basis.

(To be continued next Issue.)

"Come, then, east off fooling,
And put by ease and rest,
For the Cause alone is worthy,
Till the good days bring the best."

The Future.

Also Incidentally the Note Issue.

By J. A. DAWSON.

Professor Atkinson has been declaring that the Commonwealth note issue "now exceeds the limit of safety in relation to bullion reserves."

I was astonished to read in the "I.S." of June 8th, an article by Comrade E. Hanks, on the note issue, in which he backed the Professor up in such statement. I most certainly disagree with Comrade Hanks, and furthermore maintain that his argument in that article, carried to a conclusion, would nullify the Law of Value.

Comrade Hanks refers to the Note issue as a "watered currency," and says that in his opinion, "a general rise in prices of 50 per cent." is due to the cause of "three bank notes, circulating in the place of two sovereigns." He further states that, "other causes, of course, can be operating," but taking his article as printed, his contention is that the note issue has been inflated, and that this has caused a 50 per cent. rise in prices. He refers his readers to Karl Marx's "Capital" chap. 3, in support of his contention. I challenge Com. Hanks to show where Marx supports such a false position. I refrain from quoting Marx, until Com. Hanks comes forth with his buttress.

Notes, like silver and copper, are only "token" money. Instead of an increased issue of notes causing a rise in prices, it is because of the rise in prices that it is necessary for an increase in the note issue and also in silver coins. In England, there is a demand for even a 5/- note.

If it takes three £1 notes to equal two sovereigns, then how is it that gold still stands at the same old price, viz. £3/7/6 an oz.? Com. Hanks, apparently exhibits the same lack of understanding that the miners of Bendigo showed when they asked Mr. W. M. Hughes to get the price of gold raised, as its present price was unprofitable to them! What the miners failed to understand was the fact that gold is the standard of price, that is, money, because it is also the universal equivalent of all other values, hence gold is the measure of value.

That money must be a thing of value, representing general labor, time is founded on the innermost nature of the commodity—producing society. Gold is a commodity the same as any other commodity, and governed by the law of value.

The cause of prices rising to-day, is mainly due to the reduced value of gold because of the slower technical progress in the average manufacturing industry, to that which has taken place in gold mining, with its use of high explosives, compressed air, electric power transmission, its improvements in machinery, ore reduction process, and transportation—all this combined with unparalleled auriferous formations, as in the Rand.

That was the case before the war—prices were rising because the socially necessary labor time for producing gold, had been reduced, compared with the labor necessary to produce most other commodities. Gold, reduced in value, being the standard of price, all other commodities rose in price, mirrored in gold (money.)

With the advent of the war this rise in prices of the necessities of life became more pronounced, this further rise was caused by the putting out of adjustment of the labor force, which to the number of millions of workers, were drawn away from the production of necessities toward the production and destruction of commodities of war.

Enough to show Com. Hanks, how the rise in prices is caused. Now to deal with the note issue and capitalist finance.

History has its laws, but it finds no ready rut to move in.

The attainment of the ultimate goal of the present centralising tendencies, namely capitalist oligarchy, has been crossed by developments caused by the war in that the State has now stepped into the arena to control industry, owing to the inability of the capitalist class (as separate individual groups of capitalists) to cope with the forces of production and their outcome—war on a scale that the world had never before seen. Instinctively, even though to a certain extent rebel-

lious, capitalists turned to the Political State for aid, as a domineering child turns to its nurse.

The function of the Commonwealth Bank, is to act as agent for placing the social money capital at the disposal of the industrial capitalists, (mainly to-day for war purposes of one sort or another). The lenders (the Bank as an adjunct of the State) are not the owners of the money.

It is the social money capital together with the taxable wealth of the community based largely upon the amount of surplus value that can be wrung from the working class that is the solid basis of the note issue.

Social production, without social control, is possible in no other way, than by the social recognition of a single exclusive commodity as the measure of value, and the universal medium of exchange. This recognition has been the only absolutely social act of the human race. By this act gold became the world's money.

But there is a contradiction in the function of money. Gold to be the measure of value must be scarce. Money to be the medium of exchange must be plentiful.

Hence the credit system, and the use of paper and taken money in exchange. This financial mechanism before the war was becoming more precarious each year, and subject to the vanishing of the social faith, on which it alone rested.

Hence when paper money was issued by the private banks, the said banks had to be very careful not to inflate the note issue unduly, or at a crisis they might go insolvent. But in the case of the Commonwealth Treasury and Commonwealth Bank, it is different, and as far as the note issue is concerned, paper money is now on a different footing in Australia, to the period of private bank issue. The present note issue has the solid basis of the State, functioning as the controller of industry behind it. As far as capitalist finance is concerned, it is sound. This is the opinion of leading bankers.

The Australian note issue is to be £56,000,000. The gold reserve is 35 per cent. The treasurer has stated that the additional amount of £3,000,000 issued, was needed owing to disbursements for wheat and other agricultural exports. The Australian Note Act fixed the margin of safety at 25 per 10 per cent. higher than the statutory requirement.

"Paper" and token money is of no use for foreign exchange. Gold must be there in that case, but as the food problem is now an acute one in the world, and Australia has a huge surplus of food-stuff, there should be no difficulty in the Government getting all the gold necessary whenever required.

It is for this reason that the State is continuing to guarantee a price for wheat to the grower in spite of no available market at present for that cereal. Also instinctively, though perhaps unconsciously, the powers that be regard with alarm the drift of population from the country to the city.

The credit and financial system of the world broke down on the outbreak of the war.

Stock Exchanges and Bourses closed their doors for a considerable period. The credit and financial mechanism, so far as the world is concerned, is only patched up temporarily by the State coming to the rescue. I have said that as far as capitalism is concerned the note issue is sound—but only so long as capitalism lasts. That is the point for the Industrial Socialist.

It is not the method of history to wait until conditions are rotten ripe before replacing outworn social systems by new ones.

By its new method of finance, capitalism, through the State, has mortgaged the future of the working class. The credit system, and State indebtedness, has grown to an hitherto unheard of extent, and all methods of repayment (if such were possible) must be out of the surplus value created by the workers.

Social consciousness has been developed and looks for expression through the State. Capitalism has received recognition and has been able to express itself. Not so with Labor.

The contradiction hitherto existing between the democratic political State and the plutocratic power within the State has called for settlement. It has been settled.

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Continued from Page 3.

Government has now been practically taken out of the hands of Parliament and vested in commissions and departments superior to Parliament. Labor has been utterly ignored.

An antagonism of classes, so barefaced and extreme, cannot be countenanced, in spite of its logic, as co-existing with political equality. Labriola has finely said, "how the State continually rises up of itself against itself, by creating in the means with which it cannot dispense, as, for example, a colossal system of taxation, militarism, universal suffrage, the development of education, etc., the conditions of its own ruin." Volumes could be written on that one sentence.

Capitalism has moved, and its inevitable enemy is fast on its heels. In Russia Labor has overtaken and trampled Capital into the dust.

Labor can only express itself through the Industrial Republic of Labor.

The writing is on the wall, the camps of Labor and Capital become every day more irreconcilable and antagonistic.

It is only now a matter of days when Labor in all the principal capitalistic countries will be at the throat of Capital in death grips. **EVEN AS IN RUSSIA.**

Sound the clear note of preparedness for Labor Workers! Learn what Revolutionary Industrial Unionism means. The Workers' International Industrial Union points the way.

Away with such red herring ideas as that the note issues concerns the workers. It does not.

Workers! Your minds must be intent on one thing only. The abolition of the wage system. By revolution and not tinkering reform.

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES.

BARRIER BRANCH.

The high cost of living in Broken Hill, is at the present time receiving a great deal of attention. During the past few weeks a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, to protest against the soaring prices of certain commodities.

Listening to many of the speeches delivered on the matter reminded one of the starved and toil-stunned chartists as described by Kingsley, in "Alton Locke." How some of them in their pitifully simple manner described the suffering and hardship which they had to endure, and expressed the belief that if only a knowledge of their plight, could be conveyed to the Queen, a better state of affairs would soon be brought about.

The modern wage slave raises a similar cry. He sees his children, going footless to school and the whole family insufficiently clothed and lacking the necessary food to satisfy their hunger. Every pay day he sees the storekeeper give him less goods for his wages.

Instead of appealing to the Queen like the chartists, he wants to appeal to the State. If only the Government will send along a commissioner to inquire into the price of commodities, and stop the shopkeepers from cheating him, conditions will soon begin to improve.

As a result of the public meeting a committee was appointed to make investigations, re the cost of living, also a Government official with the appropriate name of Mr. Kydd, has arrived to make enquiries.

If it were not for constant assurances made by leading members of the P.L.L., that the Labor Party will regain power some day, many sleepless nights would be passed by Labor supporters, contemplating the Increasing Cost of Living, and "our" ever increasing war debt.

Despite all the sidetracking of opportunists, we have been able to further increase our literature sales, and especially the sale of the I.S.

The lectures in the hall have been well attended. During the past few weeks, Mr. T. Cherrington lectured on "The Class Struggle, and It's Remedy," Dr. Birks of the B.H. Hospital, on "Waste and Repair of the Human Body," and last Sunday Comrade W. Wilson lectured on "Some Economic Aspects."

For next Sunday, Miss R. Swann has promised to deliver a lecture on "Education."

—Press Correspondent.

Melbourne Notes.

Trades Hall Council Step Forward.

While the Industrialists have been making themselves felt in the Sydney Trades and Labor Council, perhaps even more vital issues have been dealt with in Melbourne. But owing to less opposition from bone-headed jingoistic workmen, less noise has been made in Melbourne compared with Sydney. Probably this fact may mean that the Labor movement in Melbourne is the sounder.

Some time ago the Melbourne Trades Hall Council decided to fly "the Red Flag" on all Labor occasions. Since that decision no flag has flown from Trades Hall; on Empire Day and King's Birthday the flagpoles were bare.

Instead of a great fight being put up over the adoption of the delegate's report from the recruiting conference, as in Sydney, Melbourne Trades Hall Council in the first place refused to send a delegate to the recruiting conference, and so dealt a death blow at Labor's connivance at capital's efforts.

About five months ago a sub-committee of the Council was appointed to draw up recommendations for social reform. On June 5, the Trades Hall Council received the report and recommendations of the sub-committee, amongst which was urged the extension of the activities of the State in many directions, including free medical attention, free legal services, and the appointment of a Royal Commission to determine a basic wage that would provide a reasonable standard of comfort. The full meeting of the Council discharged the whole of the recommendations of the sub-committee from the business-sheet of the Council.

Delegates took the stand that the Council should stand by the ultimate ideal of the Labor movement, namely, that the workers should receive the full amount of what they produce, and compromise for nothing less in their demand. It was pointed out that the fixing of a basic wage simply tended to perpetuate the wages system, which was contrary to Labor's ideal—"Labor is entitled to all it produces." The whole of the proposals were rejected.

The results of revolutionary propaganda is here shown. The "International Socialist" has done much education in this respect, together with the militant Industrialists of Melbourne.

Professor Atkinson Again.

On Sunday, June 9, at the A.S.P. Hall, 47 Victoria Street, Prof. Atkinson again proved his ability as a mental chloroformer, in his lecture on "Proposals for a Permanent Peace." His main proposal, after dismissing such schemes as a League of Nations, was for an International Parliament, elected by franchise of the peoples.

In answer to a question, he emphasised his sincerity of purpose. During the discussion which followed one comrade pointed out that it was the professor's very sincerity that made him all the more dangerous to the working class movement. The professor, in answer, said that he risked his career in taking the forward stand he did, and as for his being dangerous, if that was so, then his opponent had a very poor opinion of the intelligence of the working class, if he, the professor, could twist them from the straight path.

This retort of Prof. Atkinson's would be sound if the Socialist Industrial movement had the same opportunities as Prof. Atkinson and his backers of the capitalist class (use of halls and all the power of the daily press). The working class were twisted into support of the war, and are fighting the battles for their masters.

If the working class had had intelligence enough after August 4, 1914, there would have been no war, and we would not have Prof. Atkinson lecturing now on proposals for the world's peace.

As for risking his career, that is bunkum. He is insidiously appealing to the sentiment of the crowd. Where his career will be in danger is when the Industrialists capture the Political State, i.e., Socialism. And Prof. Atkinson is doing his utmost to put off that day of hope for the working class.

I have been told that a circular is being sent round to all employers, urging them to give fullest support in any and every way possible to Prof. Atkinson for the valuable work he is doing in his attempt to undermine the working class movement.

It is significant that the "Age" on Monday morning gave a report of Prof. Atkinson's lecture at the A.S.P. Hall, but left out entirely any account of the criticism that arose in the 45 minutes of discussion. This is also the first time any lecture at 47 Victoria Street has been reported in the "Age."

Prof. Atkinson said that a change of heart was necessary before we could

hope for much improvement. He was plainly told that he was putting the cart before the horse, but in his able manner and beautiful language he attempted to ridicule such a statement.

Let me quote Professor Felix Adler, representative of American capitalism at the London Congress of Anti-Socialists, and so show that Professor Atkinson puts into practice the precepts of that Anti-Labor Professor, Felix Adler, who said, "We have set up the dogma that 'character must be improved before improving the material condition of the people.' This dogma qualifies our system and us pre-eminently for the task of curbing Socialism—a movement that is equipped with the very strongest educational power, and whose distinguishing characteristic is to use these powers with wonderful effect for the enlightenment of the people; a movement that, while it kindles the very highest and noblest aspirations, correctly shows that, to make these possible for the masses, their material condition must be first changed, and then proceeds to point out with unerring precision the only practical methods to change these material conditions, and to introduce the prerequisites for the popular elevation of character."

"It is undeniable that character," continued the professor, "in the masses, is affected by their material condition, not their material condition by their character. Now then, by our preaching the opposite doctrine, by our exhorting the people to try and change their character first—matters not how free-thinking or atheistic we may be—we take the wind out of the sails of Socialism; we appear in the light of great moralists and great apostles of education ourselves, and as, furthermore, we present our doctrines in all the trappings of metaphysical learning, we mystify our hearers—a great point for success in our common endeavor. You have no idea how many people can be fooled in that way." Prof. Atkinson is also fooling the people.

Permanent peace can only come when the workmen of the world—the men who fight the wars—learn that they have no country to defend, that the workers of other lands are their brothers, that the International is their true fatherland, and then organise Industrially, Internationally, to take over the World for the Working Class. Then, and then only, will war be no more, and permanent peace reign.

Industrial Action Will Force Legislation.

Workers in the building trades for years have appealed to Parliament for a Safe Scaffolding Act. Parliament took the matter up, but shelved it—such an Act to safeguard workers' lives and limbs does not suit the employers—they find insurance is cheaper.

Now the Building Trades Federation has at last determined to take the matter into their own hands. The federation has adopted scaffolding regulations which are to become operative from July 1. If employers do not abide by these regulations, work will cease until they do so. This is a step in the right direction. If the building trades had taken such action years ago Parliament would have been forced to take action. As only political pressure was exerted, Parliament shelved the bill to a more "convenient" time.

When the workers show their determination on the industrial field Parliament will find that the convenient time has arrived. Good luck to the builders, and may they stand to their guns. Workers, organise and place your reliance in your own might. You will get nothing unless you do so.

J. A. DAWSON.

"THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST."

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The Workers' International Industrial Union.



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Business meeting every alternate Thursday evening.
Dance every Friday evening.

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